


 PROCEEDINGS
 OF THE
 BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

REMARKS ON THE GENUS
OCHETORHYNCHUS MEYEN

BY ALEXANDER WETMORE AND JAMES L. PETERS

As long ago as 1926, in discussing *Upucerthia certhioides* Wetmore¹ remarked "the association of this and allied straight billed forms in the genus *Upucerthia* with species of the *U. dumetaria* type is questionable." Recently while engaged in a general revision of the Furnariidae, Peters came to the conclusion that the continued retention of *certhioides* in *Upucerthia* was not warranted, and proposed to Wetmore that the question of the generic allocation of this species be reopened.

In connection with the study of this question all the known species currently referred to *Upucerthia* were examined as well as nearly all of the described races. One of these (*excelsior*) has already been shown by Bond² to be referable to the genus *Cinclodes*, a disposition in which we entirely concur. Of the other species currently placed in *Upucerthia*, there are three, *dumetaria*, *albigula* and *validirostris*, that are similar structurally in that the bill is slender and longer than the head, with the culmen strongly arched. Two others, *andaecola* and *serrana*, have somewhat stouter and shorter bills, which, however, are arched as in the *dumetaria* group.

The three remaining species, *ruficauda*, *harterti* and *certhioides*, differ noticeably from any of the others mentioned, in having the culmen straight, slightly decurved terminally, and not arched. There seem to be no other structural characters, but in our estimation this striking bill difference is sufficient to be of generic value.

The three species listed above may be placed in the Genus *Ochetorhynchus* Meyen,³ the type of which is *Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus* Meyen.

Examination of a large series of *Ochetorhynchus certhioides* from widely separated parts of its range reveals the existence

¹U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 133, 1926. p. 251.

²Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 97, 1945, p. 23.

³Nova Acta Acad. Caes. Leop.-Carol., 16, 1834, suppl. 1, p. 80.

of a hitherto unrecognized race, occupying a larger area than the ranges of either of the two currently recognized forms as restricted below. A brief history of the two currently described forms may be of interest. In 1838 d'Orbigny and Lafresnaye⁴ described *Anabates certhioides* from Corrientes, Argentina. Following this in 1860 Burmeister⁵ named *Ochetorhynchus luscinia*, with types from Mendoza. The existence of the name set up by d'Orbigny and Lafresnaye was over-looked by all ornithologists until resurrected by Ménégau and Hellmayr⁶, and the few specimens that were collected along the Paraguay River were referred to *luscinia*, which had been transferred to the genus *Upucerthia* by Sclater and Salvin⁷. Ménégau and Hellmayr (loc. cit.) pointed out the differences between the eastern and western populations in Argentina, but regarded them as distinct species. Hartert⁸ three years later reduced *luscinia* to the status of a subspecies of *certhioides*. While Hartert was correct in his interpretation of relationships, he apparently lacked topotypical material of *luscinia*, and assumed that the specimens at hand from the Argentine provinces of Salta, Catamarca and Tucumán represented that form. Hellmayr's treatment in the fourth part of the Catalogue of the Birds of the Americas was essentially the same as that of Hartert. Thus it now appears that the bird we propose to describe is in reality *Upucerthia certhioides luscinia* of authors, not of Burmeister, which appears to be restricted in its distribution to the precordillera in the Argentine provinces of La Rioja and Mendoza, while the population from Salta, Catamarca, Tucumán, Santiago del Estero, western Chaco and the Paraguayan Chaco belongs to an undescribed race that we name.

Ochetorhynchus certhioides estebani new subspecies

Type M. C. Z. no. 94198, ad. ♂, Leales Bajo, 700 meters elevation, Tucumán, collected 16 May, 1915 by Luis Dinelli.

Characters.—Similar to *Ochetorhynchus certhioides certhioides* (d'Orbigny and Lafresnaye), but dorsal coloration much paler brown; ventral coloration duller, especially the flanks, which lack any rufous tinge; bill relatively as well as absolutely shorter; wing longer, with tail equal to or slightly longer than wing. Similar also to *O. c. luscinia* Burmeister but more brownish, less grayish above and below; smaller in all dimensions.

⁴Syn. Av., in Mag. Zool., 8, 1838, cl. 2, p. 15.

⁵Journ. f. Orn. 8, 1860, p. 249.

⁶Mem. Soc. Hist. Nat. Autun, 19, 1906, p. 56.

⁷Nomencl. Av. Neotrop., 1873, p. 62.

⁸Nov. Zool., 16, 1909, pp. 207-208.

This new form is named for Dr. Juan G. Esteban of the Instituto Miguel Lillo in Tucumán, in recognition of his current work in the family Furnariidae.

The races and ranges of *Ochetorhynchus certhioides* may be summarized thus—

O. c. luscinia Burmeister.

Ochetorhynchus Luscinia Burmeister, Journ. f. Orn., 8, no. 46, July, 1860, p. 249. (Mendoza.)

The largest and palest form, the brown coloration with a distinct grayish cast; wing longer than tail. 1 ♂, La Rioja, wing 74.5; tail 76.1; culmen 24.9 mm., 3 ♀, Mendoza, wing 70.9-75.2 (72.7); tail 73.8-82.3 (77.9); culmen 22.6-24.5 (23.5) mm.

Range: Precordillera of western Argentina in provinces of Mendoza and La Rioja; presumably also in San Juan.

O. c. estebani Wetmore and Peters.

Browner, less grayish, than *O. c. luscinia*; somewhat smaller.

	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Tail</i>	<i>Culmen</i>
1 ♂ Salta	70.5	70.7	20.4
1 ♂ Catamarca	68.4	69.1	22.8
3 ♂ Tucumán	70.6-72.3 (71.5)	72.1-73 (71.6)	20.7-21.8 (21)
5 ♂ Santiago del Estero	69.-72.4 (70.6)	68-75.5 (71.6)	20.5-23.1 (21.6)
1 ♂ Chaco (western)	68.5	69	22.1
5 ♂ Paraguayan Chaco	65.8-68.7 (67.3)	65.2-68.5 (66.9)	20.4-21.4 (20.6)
3 ♀ Tucumán	67-70.3 (68.6)	67-71.3 (69.6)	18.3-20.7 (19.6)
8 ♀ Santiago del Estero	65-72.5 (68.8)	66.8-75.7 (71.1)	19.7-22.8 (21.8)
3 ♀ Chaco (western)	65.4-69.2 (67)	64.6-69.8 (66.9)	19.7-22.9 (20.4)
1 ♀ Paraguayan Chaco	67.4	69.5	21.7

Range:—Northern and northwestern Argentina in provinces of Salta, Catamarca, Tucumán, Córdoba, Santiago del Estero, and Gobernación del Chaco (General Pinedo), extending into the Paraguayan Chaco to a point 265 km. west of Puerto Casado. Paraguayan specimens are somewhat intermediate in size and proportions between this race and *O. c. certhioides*, but are nearer to *estebani* in shorter bill and paler coloration.

O. c. certhioides (d'Orbigny and Lafresnaye)

Anabates certhioides d'Orbigny and Lafresnaye, Syn. Av., in Mag. Zool., 8, cl. 2, 1838, p. 15. (Corrientes.)

The most deeply colored race, with the shortest wings and tail, the latter member averaging slightly shorter than wing, whereas in the other two races the tail slightly exceeds the wing; bill longer than in *estebani*, but shorter than in *luscinia*.

	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Tail</i>	<i>Culmen</i>
2 ♂ Formosa	67.3-68.5 (67.9)	64.9-65.3 (65.1)	23.-23.6 (23.3)
2 ♂ Chaco (eastern)	65.1-66.5 (65.8)	62.9-65.6 (64.2)	21.6-22.9 (22.2)
1 ♂ Santa Fe	67.3	63.1	22.1
2 ♀ Chaco	61.2-68.7 (64.9)	62.3-67.6 (64.9)	22.8-22.9 (22.85)
1 ♀ Santa Fe	64.3	63.8	23.4

Range:—Eastern Formosa, and Chaco (Las Palmas) south to Santa Fe (Mocoví), Corrientes⁹ and Entre Ríos,⁹ Argentina.

The forms included in *Ochetorhynchus* under the arrangement set up in this paper will stand as follows:

- Ochetorhynchus harterti* (Berlepsch)
- Ochetorhynchus certhioides certhioides* (d'Orbigny and Lafresnaye)
- Ochetorhynchus certhioides estebani* Wetmore and Peters
- Ochetorhynchus certhioides lusciniæ* Burmeister
- Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus ruficaudus* Meyen
- Ochetorhynchus ruficaudus montanus* (d'Orbigny and Lafresnaye)

MATERIAL EXAMINED

O. c. lusciniæ.—MENDOZA: near Mendoza, 3 ♀¹. LA RIOJA: Chilecito, 1 ♂¹.

O. c. estebani.—SALTA: Arenal, 1 ♂², CATAMARCA: Catamarca, 1 ♂². TUCUMÁN: Vipos, 1 ♂²; Tapia, 1 ♂³, 3 ♀^{1,2,3}; Leales Bajo, 1 ♂ (type). SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO: Lavalle, 5 ♀²; Suncho Corral, 4² ♂, 4 ♀². CHACO: General Pinedo, 1 ♂², 3 ♀². PARAGUAYAN CHACO: General Diaz, 1 ♂⁴, 1 ♀⁴; Orloff 1 ♂⁴; Colonia Fernheim 2 ♂⁴; 265 km. W. of Puerto Casado 1 ♂⁵.

O. c. certhioides.—FORMOSA: Kil. 182, 2 ♂¹. CHACO: Las Palmas, 1 ♂¹, 1 ♀; SANTA FE: San Vicente, 1 ♂²; Ocampo, 1 ♀², Mocoví, 1 ♂², 1 ♀².

We are indebted to the authorities of the American Museum of Natural History, Chicago Natural History Museum and the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, for the loan of material, in addition to that contained in the United States National Museum and the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.

Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D. C.

Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge 38, Mass.

⁰Specimens from these provinces not seen.

¹Specimens in U. S. National Museum.

²Specimens in American Museum of Natural History.

³Specimens in Museum of Comparative Zoology.

⁴Specimens in Chicago Natural History Museum.

⁵Specimens in Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan.